

Husky dressed in some style of big pants obviously full of himself hence his lyrical flowing over

We went along in the same direction then he noticed me there almost beside him and "Big"

He shouted-sang "Big" and I thought how droll to have my height incorporated in his song

So I smiled but the face of the young man showed nothing he looked in fact pointedly away

And his song changed "I'm not a nice person" he chanted "I'm not I'm not a nice person"

No menace was meant I gathered no particular threat but he did want to be certain I knew

That if my smile implied I conceived of anything like concord between us I should forget it

That's all nothing else happened his song became indecipherable to me again he arrived

Where he was going to a house where a girl in braids waited for him on the porch that was all

No one saw no one heard all the unasked and unanswered questions were left where they were

It occurred to me to sing back "I'm not a nice person either" but I couldn't come up with a tune

Besides I wouldn't have meant it nor he have believed it both of us knew just where we were

In the duet we composed the equation we made the conventions to which we were condemned

Sometimes it feels even when no one is there that someone something is watching and listening

Someone to rectify redo remake this time again though no one saw nor heard no one was there

INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION ON JUÁREZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce this bipartisan resolution with my colleagues Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. REYES, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Ms. CAPITO. We are deeply concerned about the murders and violence against women that has occurred in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. Since 1993 over 300 women have disappeared from this area. Oftentimes their mutilated bodies are found in the abandoned or desert areas. This resolution expresses our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy to the families of the victims, and encourages increased U.S. involvement in bringing an end to these heinous crimes that for the most part have gone unsolved.

SMALL BUSINESS BANKRUPTCY VENUE RELIEF ACT

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, the recent bankruptcy of a large chemical company in Lou-

isiana has alerted me to the difficulties that small businesses can face in bankruptcy proceedings. In the wake of this chemical company's bankruptcy, a number of small businesses in Louisiana found themselves defendants in preferential payment lawsuits brought by the bankruptcy trustee. Many of these companies were shocked that they would be accused of receiving preferential payments when they had had a long history of consistent business dealings with the chemical company. Not only were these businesses surprised by the lawsuits, but they were dismayed that they were forced to defend these lawsuits in Delaware. The burden of hiring an attorney in Louisiana and Delaware was significant and a number of these small businesses were forced to settle these meritless lawsuits to avoid the costs associated with a legal defense.

I believe that we are placing these small businesses in an unacceptable position. Asking small businesses to pay several thousand dollars in legal fees or settlement fees is a significant burden for many of these businesses. It appears that in a number of cases, bankruptcy trustees realize the leverage they have on these small businesses and exploit this leverage. It costs little for the trustees to file suit against these small businesses and then the trustees have the luxury of adjudicating the lawsuits in the State they are working in. Authorizing penalties for frivolous lawsuits and changing the venue for preferential payments cases that fall below a meager \$5,000 threshold has done little to improve the situation for small businesses. I believe that we must force bankruptcy trustees to take a harder look at the merits of these preferential payments cases and we need to allow small businesses the courtesy of defending these lawsuits in the State in which they reside.

For this reason, I have introduced the "Small Business Bankruptcy Venue Relief Act." This legislation will allow small businesses of under 25 full-time employees to defend preferential payments claims in the State where they reside. In addition to lowering legal costs for these small businesses, this legislation will force bankruptcy trustees to give greater consideration to the merits of preferential payment claims against small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that members will consider the plight of small businesses and co-sponsor the "Small Business Bankruptcy Venue Relief Act."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on July 8, 2003. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 334 and "yea" on rollcall Nos. votes 335 and 336. On July 10, 2003, I was absent from this Chamber for a journal vote No. and I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 346.

On July 14, 2003, I was absent from this Chamber and I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted

"yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 354, 355, 358 and 359 and "nay" on rollcall vote No. 356. I was also absent from this Chamber on July 17, 2003, and would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 387. Furthermore, on July 18, 2003, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 396 and "nay" on rollcall vote No. 397.

On July 21, 2003, I was absent from this Chamber and I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 398, 399 and 400. I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on July 24, 2003 and would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 441. I missed rollcall vote No. 452 on July 25, 2003, and would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

IN RECOGNITION OF BANQUET HONORING THE HEROES OF THE MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA BUS BOYCOTT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Montgomery, Alabama Transportation Coalition in recognizing the heroes of the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott.

On December 4, 2003, the Coalition will hold its annual awards dinner, and the theme for this year's banquet is "Reclaiming the Dream." They have chosen this occasion to honor the heroes of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. These heroes are former Pastor Robert Graetz, Mrs. Inez Jessie Baskin, Mrs. Johnnie Carr, Mrs. Daisy Childrey, Mrs. Thelma Glass, Mrs. Hazel Gregory, Mrs. Vera Harris, Mr. Bobby Jackson, Mrs. Zecoz Williams, and posthumously, Mrs. Aurelia Browder, Mrs. Virginia Durr and Mr. Eddie Posey.

Today, it may be difficult for some to recognize the importance of what these individuals did because, thankfully, times have changed. But, the change has come about because of their actions. They truly are heroes, and I salute each of them.

INTRODUCING THE AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE AND TAX SHELTERS ACT

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce bipartisan legislation to stop the unethical, and in certain cases, criminal conduct by some of our Nation's most respected accounting firms that market abusive tax shelters under the guise of "non-audit services" to the public companies whose books they audit—in effect auditing their own work. The Auditor Independence and Tax Shelters Act, cosponsored by Representatives MARK FOLEY, BART STUPAK, DAVE CAMP, and